

March 14, 2005

To Representative Lisa Wojno,

My name is Julijana Kuhnhenh and I am currently a resident in good standing within the city of Warren. I am, at present, enrolled in an accredited Surgical Technologist program and am in my second semester of my rotation at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. I am writing to you, as my representative, in regards to House Bill No. 4403 as it pertains to the certification of Surgical Technologists within the State of Michigan and the delegation of an act, task, or function by a licensed physician or surgeon to a certified Surgical Technologist. This current bill will amend section 16215 of the present standing bill of 1999 that went into effect September 1, 1999.

Currently under the law, *"...physicians are allowed to delegate an act, task, or function to an individual who is not licensed as a physician, if the unlicensed person is supervised by a physician who is physically present. Those to whom delegation is possible under the law include 1) students enrolled in a school of medicine . . . 2) students enrolled in an approved physician's assistant training program . . ."* Under House Bill 4403 the amendment would allow *"physicians to delegate acts, tasks, or functions to an individual who had successfully completed an accredited education program in surgical technology . . . and be certified by the National Surgical Assistance Association, the Liaison Council on Certification for the Surgical Technologist, or by the American Board of Surgical Assisting."*

I am one of thousands of surgical technologists all over Michigan who wish this bill to be approved by the legislature and enacted into law. The introduction of this bill in the Michigan legislature represents the beginning of a highly important breakthrough for our profession and for the implementation of appropriate standards of care for surgery patient in Michigan hospitals. Mandatory certification brings with it accountability for the certified individual to maintain a professional standing with AST (Association of Surgical Technologists) requiring continuing education credits to maintain the credential of CST.

House Bill 4403 serves to protect the broad delegatory authority of the physician as defined not only in Michigan's Medical Practice Act, but also by the American College of Surgeons. More and more, the physician's delegatory authority is under attack. I support this bill because it clearly defines the delegatory relationship between surgeons and surgical technologists and assistants. Surgical technologists and Surgical Assistants have already been practicing in the manner defined by this bill for over 50 years, without language in Michigan statute that addresses their practice. Ben Price, head of the GPA committee for AST (Association of Surgical Technologist) has stated, without this language, hospitals and physicians may continue to choose (though we fervently oppose this) to use lesser-trained individuals in these roles who have no accreditation.

I support this bill in its entirety and only hope that you and your fellow representatives move in the direction that will ensure quality care for all operative patients. Thank you for your consideration and time.

Cordially,

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